

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 PM-07 NSC-10

SS-15 IO-13 OIC-04 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 COA-02 RSR-01

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R 301335Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8579

INFO AMETASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMCNSUL MARTINIQUE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0979

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR GY

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CARIBBEAN SAR CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 126336

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTTEL, DISCUSSED PROPOSED CARIBBEAN SAR CONFERENCE WITH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS S.S. RAMPHAL THIS MORNING. RAMPHAL TOTALLY UNINFORMED. NEVERTHELESS, WAS INTERESTED AND RELIEVED TO LEARN THAT U.S. HAD NOT TERMINATED PUERTO RICO-BASED SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS AND HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING SO. ASSUMED MINISTRY SIMPLY SERVING AS "LETTER BOX" FOR CARIBBEAN SECRETARIAT ON MATTER AND SPECULATED THAT SOME OTHER CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE MISINTERPRETED CHANGE IN US SAR OPERATING METHODS, "PANICKED" AND INTRODUCED SUBJECT INTO SOME COMMITTEE DURING EIGHT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

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MEETING HERE LAST APRIL. ACCEPTED AND CONCURRED IN US VIEW

THAT TO BE USEFUL PROPOSED SAR CONFERENCE SHOULD INCLUDE ALL GOVERNMENTS IN AREA, BE BASED ON ADEQUATE ADVANCE PREPARATIONS AND, CONSEQUENTLY, BE HELD LATER IN THE YEAR THAN WAS BEING PROPOSED.

2. RAMPHAL POINTED OUT THAT NOTE TO EMB(WHICH I READ HIM) MENTIONED BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA AS PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS. CONSEQUENTLY, HE ASSUMED OUR SUGGESTION THAT PROPOSED CONFERENCE BE BROADENED "TO INCLUDE ALL CARIBBRAN GOVERNMENTS" MEANT INCLUSION OF HAITI AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. "HOW ABOUT CUBA?" HE ASKED, WITH CONSIDERABLE LOGIC.

3. GAVE RAMPHAL FULL FLAVOR OF REFTEL'S REACTION TO IMPLICATION THAT GOVERNMENTS OF PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS MIGHT BE INVITED TO ATTEND PROPOSED CONFERENCE AS SEPARATE ENTITIES, EVEN THOUGH MOFA NOTE HAD SIMPLY ASKED THAT USG INFORM THOSE ENTITIES OF PROPOSAL HOLD SAR CONFERENCE. BELIEVE THIS WAS USEFUL REMINDER IN VIEW TENDENCY CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS DEAL DIRECTLY WITH US TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS IN AREA. RAMPHAL GOT THE MESSAGE AND WAS A BIT EMBARRASSED.

4. WE AGREED THAT DCM WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH PERMSEC MOFA WHO ORIGINATED NOTES TO EMB ON PROPOSED SAR CONFERENCE, PRESUMABLY AT INSTIGATION CARIBBEAN SECRETARIAT.

5. WOULD WELCOME USG'S VIEWS REGARDING CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN AUGMENTED, CAREFULLY PLANNED REGIONAL SAR CONFERENCE LATER IN YEAR IN EVENT COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS PROVE RECEPTIVE TO OUR SUGGESTIONS. KING

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